1:Heckewelder M-5 (ca. 1800)1819
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"it is true; but still he was thine, and his life was "valuable to thee. I, therefore, now surrender my- "self up to thy will. Direct as thou wilt have it, "and relieve me speedily from misery." To which the woman answered: "Thou hast, indeed, killed my son "who was dear to me, and the only supporter I had in "my old age. One life is already lost, and to take "thine on that account, cannot be of any service to "me, nor better my situation. Thou hast, however, "a son, whom if thou wilt give me in the place of my "son whom thou hast slain, all shall be wiped away." The murderer then replied: "Mother, my son is yet but "a child, ten years old, and can be of no service to thee, "but rather a trouble and charge; but here am I, truly "capable of supporting and maintaining thee: if thou "wilt receive me as thy son, nothing shall be wanting "on my part to make thee comfortable while thou "livest." The woman approving of the proposal, forth- with adopted him as her son, and took the whole family to her house.

But we must now look to the other side of the picture. It cannot but be acknowledged that the Indians are in general revengeful and cruel to their enemies. That even after the battle is over, they wreak their deliberate revenge on their defenceless prisoners; that in their wars, they are indifferent about the means which they pursue for the annoyance and destruction of their adversaries, and that surprise and stratagem are as often employed by them as open force. This is all true. Deprived of the light of the only true Christian Religion, unchecked by the precepts and unswayed by the example of the God of peace, they indulge too much, sometimes, the violence of their passions, and commit actions which force the tear from the eye of humanity. But upon the whole, are we better than they are? I reserve this question for a sepa- rate chapter.